The Red-Croſse:
OR,
Englands Lord have mercie upon us.

A lamentable Relation of many Viſitations by the Plague in times paſt, as well in other Countries as in the Citie of *London*, and the certaine cauſes thereof: With a true number of all thoſe that dyed in the laſt great Viſitation:

And alſo the number of all thoſe that have dyed in this preſent Viſitation.

IT is no doubt, that the corruption of the Aire, together with uncleanly and unwholſome keeping of dwelling, where many are peſtred together, as alſo the not-obſerving to have fires private and publikely made as well within houſes, as without in the ſtreets, at times when the Ayre is infected, are great occaſions to increaſe, corrupt, and produce peſtilent Diſeaſes. Neither can it be denyed, that the over-boldneſſe of many preaſing into infected places, and the lewdneſſe of others with Sores upon them, preſuming into the open Ayre, ſome of wilfulneſſe, but truly many of neceſſitie, contaminateth and corrupteth divers: as the Leproſie, the Poxe, and ſundry ſuch uncleane diſeaſes doe: as by drinking, lying in company, and other ſuch meanes, where pure complexions and cleane bloods are defiled with ſuch as are putrified: and therefore carefully to be avoyded. But all theſe are accidentall, and rather effects than the cauſe. For it plainly appeareth in the Booke of *Exodus* that when it pleaſed the Almightie God to ſmite the Ægyptians, the Children of *Iſrael* were appointed to dip Iſop in the Blood of the Paſchall Lambe, and ſmite off that bloud on the outward Poſts of their doores, that when the ſlayer came to deſtroy in one night all the firſt borne in Ægypt, he might paſſe over the houſes of Gods children. So that it is plaine, it was an Angell then ſent to ſmite thoſe cruell people with the Peſtilence.

Then firſt, this Citie of *London*, cannot be denyed, to have had as great bleſſings as ever had *Jeruſalem*: for here God hath long time beene preſent by his Word and Sacraments, yet they have abounded in all iniquitie, when Jeruſalem long ſince had not a ſtone left upon a ſtone.

Secondly, *London* is ſituated as pleaſantly as *Sodome*, and her ſiſter Cities before they ſunke, even for the ſame ſinnes that we have committed: for the ſinne of *Sodome* (ſaith the Prophet *Ezechiel*) was pride, fulneſſe of bread, and contempt of the poore. That theſe ſinnes raigne in *London*, who can deny? To them, adde fulneſſe of drinke; for therein we exceed the Nation, that with n theſe fiftie yeeres we hated for drunkenneſſe: and I doubt, That un-nameable ſinne of *Sodome* is uſed in too many places of the Citie. Yet *London* ſtands, and ſo God grant with his mercie it long may.

Laſtly, where in the change of Princes (eſpecially after long peace, as *London* moſt happily enjoyed all the time of our late Soveraigne Queene *Elizabeth*, of worthy memory) many Cities have come to miſerable ſpoile, if not to ruine: yet *London*, by our moſt potent Lord and King, hath increaſed in tranquillitie, bleſſing powring upon bleſſing: ſave only now for our negligence, God hath with his owne hand ſmitten us, and ſent many to mourn in death after our late Soveraigne deceaſed, whom we had almoſt ungratefully forgotten in a day.

In the Citie, called the great *Caire*, there is a Plague once every ſeven yeeres, which commeth with ſuch a fierceneſſe, that the moſt part of the people there doe dye thereof: and divers of them that remaine alive, loſe their eye-ſight with the vapours and great heat which commeth from the ground.

In the yeere of Chriſt, 81. and in the yeere 188. there continued a great time a Plague in *Rome*, of which there daily dyed two thouſand people.

In the yeere 254. fifteene Provinces of the Romane Empire, were in a manner conſumed with the Peſtilence.

In the yeere 530. there dyed in *Conſtantinople* 5000. a day, and divers times 1000. and at that time, in ſome other p rts of Greece, there were not ſufficient living men left to bury their dead.

And in the yeere 1569. there fell ſuch a Plague in *Conſtantinople*, that there dyed in ſixe months ſpace, ſeven hundred thouſand perſons, and the yeere following fell ſuch a famine, that a penny loafe of Bread of Engliſh mony, was worth a crowne of gold: by reaſon whereof, the people died as faſt then of the Famine, as they did before of the Plague.

In the yeere 540. there began an univerſall Plague all over the world, that continued 50. yeeres with great violence.

In the yeere 1348. in *Paris* in *France*, there dyed a hundred thouſand people of the Plague.

In the yeere 1359. ſo great a Peſtilence there was in *Italy*, that there were ſcarce ten left of a thouſand.

In the yeere 1521. there dyed in *Rome* a hundred thouſand of the Peſtilence.

In the yeeres 1576. and 77. in *Millan*, *Padua* and *Venice*, there fell a hundred thouſand in every Citie: and in *Bohemia* (being but a ſmall Kingdome) there dyed 300000. the ſame time.

Soone after the Conqueſt of King *William*, Duke of *Normandy*, when the people were ſubdued to him, & the Knights fees rated which he had made, and himſelfe placed with Crowne and Scepter, hee tooke number of the Acres of land in all the Realme, and of all the people, and of all the Cattell: after which fell ſo ſore a Plague, that the people dyed in ſuch number, that Tillage decayed, Famine enſued, with rot of Cattell, that men were faine to eate fleſh of Dogs, Cats and Mice. A fearefull example for Princes.

In the Reigne of King *Edward* the 3. there fell a very great Peſtilence in the Eaſt-Indies, among the *Tartarians*, *Saracens* and *Turkes*, which laſted the ſpace of ſeven yeeres: thro gh the feare whereof, many of the Heathens willingly offered themſelves to become Chriſtians. And ſhortly after, by reaſon of Paſſengers from one Province to another, the ſame Peſtilence was diſperſed in many Chriſtian Kingdomes, and amongſt other places brought into *England*; where it was ſo forcible all over the Land, that not onely Men, but alſo Beaſts, Birds and Fiſhes were ſmitten therewith, and found dead with Botches upon them. Alſo among men, the numbers that were alive, were ſcarcely ſufficient to bury their dead. At which time, with the reſt that then dyed of the Plague, *Henry* Duke of *Lancaſter*, *Blanch*, Dutcheſſe of *Lancaſter*, and the Earle of *Warwicke* ended their lives. So that in one yeere, in a little plot of ground of thirteene Acres compaſſe, then called *Spittle-croft*, and now the *Charter-houſe*, was buried 50000 perſons, beſides all them that were buried in the Church-yards and divers places in the Fields.

Our Viſitations, though our ſinnes exceed, have been more gentle: For in the firſt great Plague in our memory, after the loſſe of *New-haven* from the firſt of January 1562. to December 1563. there dyed of the Plague, twenty thouſand, one hundred, thirty ſix.

In the ſecond great Viſitation, from the 20. of December 1592. to the 23. of the ſame month, in the yeere 1593. dyed in all 25886. of the Plague in and about *London*, 15023. And in the yeere before, 2000.

In the third great Viſitation which it pleaſed God to ſtrike us with, at the comming in of King *James* of happy memory, there dyed from the 17. of December 1602. to the 14. of July 1603. the whole number in *London* and the Liberties, 4614. Whereof of the Plague, 3310.

From the 25. of Auguſt, to the 1. of September, there dyed in *London* and the Liberties, 3385 whereof of the Plague 3035. being the greateſt number that dyed in one weeke.

From the 23. of December, 1602. unto the 22. of December 1603. there dyed of all diſeaſes, within *London* and the Liberties 38244. whereof of the Plague, 30578. and the next yeere following, *London* was cleere of that infection, and then were all the Shires in *England* grievouſly viſited. Note the worke of God.

And in the laſt great Plague, 1625. there dyed from the 6. of January, to the 27. of October, 53265. Whereof of the Plague, 34576.

Now thoſe that dyed this preſent Viſitation, 1636. are here ſet downe weekely, for better ſa isfaction to the Reader.

From the 31 *of March to the* 7. *of April*	209	*whereof, of the Plague* 2
From the 7 *of April to the* 14	213	*whereof, of the Plague* 4
From the 14 *of April to the* 21	224	*whereof, of the Plague* 14
From the 21 *of April to the* 28	259	*whereof, of the Plague* 17
From the 28 *of April to the* 5 *of May*	251	*whereof, of the Plague* 10
From the 5 *of May to the* 12	354	*whereof, of the Plague* 55
From the 12 *of May to the* 19	334	*whereof, of the Plague* 35
From the 19 *of May to the* 26	310	*whereof, of the Plague* 62

This laſt weeke there dyed within the Walls of this Citie 3 — *In the out Pariſhes* 36
In Stepney 22 — *In Weſtminſter* 1.

A Preſervation by way of defence, to be uſed in common Aſſemblies, and in open Aire.

WHen you goe abroad into the open aire, and amongſt company, hold a piece of ſtrong *Tobacco* in your hand to ſmell to; or the Root called *Angelica*, to bite now and then, as occaſion requireth; as for *Tobacco*, it hath approbation from the moſt learned Doctors of the Kingdome, to be a moſt rare Antidote and Preſervative, either being ſmelled unto, or taken faſting in the morning: provided, that preſently after the taking thereof, you drinke a deepe draught of ſixthillings beere, and walke after it.

¶ *A neceſſary Prayer for the preſent time.*

O God of glory, Lord of power, diſtributer of vengeance, and yet the favourable Phyſicion of ſicke ſoules and bodies, looke downe upon thy ſinfull, yet proſtrate ſervants, the people of the Citie of *London*, who are every where heart-ſtrucke with the Arrowes of thy angry Viſitation: We have ſinned, we have ſinned, we have grievouſly offended, and without thy grace there is no helpe, being now ſhunned and deſpiſed, even of all the Countrie people round about us; for whom, notwithſtanding, wee earneſtly pray, as for our ſelves: beſeeching thee, of thy unmeaſurable goodneſſe, not to looke upon them according to their deſerts, but to have mercie on them and us; and ſtay thy heavie hand from them as well as from us. O Lord God of mercy, be good to us, and looke not upon our ſinnes: for if thou weigheſt the offences of man, no fleſh ſhall ſtand before thee. We have ſinned, we confeſſe, O Lord, we have ſinned, there is no righteouſneſſe in us, nor any helpe but thine. O then, let thy Angell ſtay his hand, as he did at thy mercifull appointment, when *David* offending thee, ſaw the Sword over *Jeruſalem*. Let the doores of our hearts bee ſprinkled with the Blood of that Immaculate Lambe, Chriſt Jeſus, that the ſlayer may paſſe by us, as he did when the firſt borne in Ægypt were ſmitten with the Peſtilence. O God, thou canſt ſlay and reſtore againe, ſtrike into ſickneſſe, and give health; for thou art onely a Saviour. O God, the Maker of us all, looke mercifully on thy workmanſhip. O God, the Saviour of us all, be an Interceſſor to thy Father for us. O God the Holy Ghoſt, the Comforter of us all, inſpire us with true repentance, that we may humbly ſeeke, and ſuddenly finde mercie from the Holy Trinitie; one God in unitie, ever to be honoured, while man hath breath, or creatures any being. Have mercy, O God, have mercy, O God: for to thee mercy belongeth, which all true Repentants purchaſe in our Redeemer Jeſus: in whoſe Name we beſeech thee to free us and our Brethren, from this fearefull Viſitation: concluding theſe our requeſts with that abſolute forme of Prayer, which hee himſelfe hath taught us, ſaying, *Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.*

FINIS.

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